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Via ECFS  
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to  
47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1**

Dear FCC,

The internet has become critical to the future of our country. At this point in time, the effective monopolies AT&T and Comcast have resulted in ridiculously high costs for getting reasonable bandwidth into the home, gouging by the large companies, and extremely slow development of broadband connections within communities. These monopolies are holding back development in a very serious way and costing consumers enormous amounts of money by nickel-and-dimeing features with surcharges and excess bandwidth charges. My Comcast bill last month was over \$300 just for using the internet normally. That's simply absurd.

There is an effective solution, and that is to allow Cities to run their OWN fiber backbone and make it available on an equal footing to all comers to tap into. That is, this critical infrastructure should be managed by local governments and not large monopolistic corporations and then bandwidth on it sold at the wholesale level to ISPs. The cities can facilitate connecting ISPs to Citizens. This would put ISPs on equal footing with the telecom monopolies and result in a huge decrease in costs to the consumer.

At the same time, the government should require that all existing infrastructure be shareable at wholesale cost to all ISPs in order to break the monopolies, garner competition, and reduce costs to the consumer.

This mechanism would be very similar to the way electricity delivery has been decoupled from electrical generators and power companies.

The internet is critical infrastructure. It is no longer optional, and the FCC should do everything in its power to break the monopolies that have caused development to stall and give cities and smaller businesses the capability to provide services and compete. Cities must be given the ability to run fiber for the community, and smaller businesses must be granted access to that fiber on the same footing as larger corporations are. Cities do not have to handle billing per-se. The government should not prevent cities from taking action simply to favor the wallets of large corporations.

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